

THE CARRIER

August 2002 <http://www.mdarc.org> <http://www.pacificon.org>

**Official Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo
Amateur Radio Club**



General Meeting Friday, August 16, 2002

**Cal Groom
Salvation Army Team
Emergency Radio Network
7:30 PM**

VE Testing Begins at 6:00 PM
Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Lafayette, CA

What's inside

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Weekly Nets

Monday 8:00 PM SATERN Net Salvation Army 147.06
Wednesday 7:30 PM ATV Cable Channel 58
Thursday 7:30 PM Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club 147.06
RACES and ATV Nets see page 3

On a Roll

Your Mount Diablo ARC has again been awarded status as a Special Service Club by ARRL. This is a recognition of community and public service, emergency training, outreach to hams in the community (such as classes, VE exams, PACIFICON), and programs that serve the general public good. All these events are possible only because our members get involved. A 300+ person club has great opportunities to make an impact in the community and we sure do. And the best part is that the more you join in, the more fun you have. Our last general meeting featured some of **MDARC's** experts on testing and diagnosing radio problems. They brought in some very expensive equipment and were having a great time analyzing some sputtering radios. Some problems got fixed on the spot. This is the true spirit of amateur radio and a community caring about its members. The door prizes were won by the perfect "contestants" for the evening. Three A's tickets were won by Bertha (who also sold for the raffle—hmm). The Yaesu FT50-R dual bander was won by Ralph Todd. He told me he has lots of radios but never had an HT. So it was the perfect fit. Congrats to both of you. The thing that touched me was how you all came forward to buy an extra ticket when I mentioned we needed some more sales to cover the cost. We also sold another ten tickets to the Icom 2800 H mobile rig over the weekend. We only have another 80 or so remaining and then we can hold the raffle. Call me if you want some more chances. Only \$5 each for a \$500 radio.

The next day we had a successful picnic attended by over 60 people. Thank you to George and Tracey for planning and running the event. The club trailer was there, the T-hunt guys were hunting. Thanks to Dave McIntyre for the food. The kids all loved Greg leading the games. But some one should tell him NOT to throw water balloons at his president! So thanks again to all the many people who are involved in taking care of the details that make your club great. See ya...
73, Terry, KE6WRE

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting on July 1st 2002

President Terry Matzkin, KE6WRE, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. in Bakers Square, Willow Pass Road, Concord. Present were Secretary, Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q, Treasurer, Trevor Hall, WA6JAU, Emergency Coordinator Harry Styron, K6HS, directors Jay Caldis, KT6Y, Howard Burk, KE6PTT, and John Schulze, KR6CR. Also present were Keith Lattin, N6PMF, Greg Estep, KE6VTA, Carrier Editor, Bob Beard, KG6FPZ, and Social Chairman, George Roush, WB6OFH.

The minutes of the previous meeting, to include edits from Harry Styron, were approved. The treasurer's report was approved and the Checking balance is \$4,192.79 and MM A/C is \$27,781.25 for a total of \$31,974.04. There are no significant outstanding items.

The meeting felt that Field Day and the general meeting at the Field Day site were both very successful and people had a lot of fun there. The signup count for the MDARC Annual Picnic on July 20th is progressing and George Roush will arrange to have prizes for kids both large and small. Harry Styron will bring the MDARC banner to the picnic for attachment to a suitable fence. Harry Styron has tentatively set July 23rd as the start date for the General Class training course, and Harry will also arrange to create brochures.

The Technical Committee reported that: the PL was turned off on the 2M repeater due to some interference; the voter equipment setup/testing continues and Howard Burk will lead having the antenna equipment installed in the Grizzly peak and Vacaville areas; the 220 repeater is fine; a change-out of the 440 antenna still needs to be done.

Harry Styron presented a draft of a License Agreement between MDARC and each user group of the Club's common antenna facilities. Harry will provide a draft of a cover letter for Terry's review. Meanwhile a team consisting of Keith Lattin, Greg Estep and Harry Styron will start discussing these drafts with the 4 user groups that it concerns.

Terry mailed membership invitations to another 500 area hams last month. 2 new applications have been received bringing the membership total to 303. Eoin will mail newsletter & membership cards to these new members. Bob Beard is to produce a PDF of a new Membership Directory with latest membership info from Eoin. Printing 50 copies will be arranged by Bob/Eoin.

Terry adjourned the meeting at 8:50PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Eoin O'Donoghue, KK6Q
Secretary

List of Scheduled Activity for W6CX ATV

Saturdays 8:00 AM Coffee Net

Sundays 8:00 AM Coffee Net

Wednesday 7:30 PM Electronics Class
with KF6IQL

Thursday 8:00 PM General ATV
ATV Net

Upcoming Public Service Events

MDARC supports many community groups and agencies by providing communications for special events. This is a fun way to get out and use your radios, further a worthwhile cause and gain valuable experience that will come in handy in the event of a major emergency or disaster. Here is a list of upcoming events:

Pacific South Trailride 9/14/02, Redwood and Chabot Regional Parks

Check out the Public Service Events page on the **MDARC** website for more information on how to help with these events.

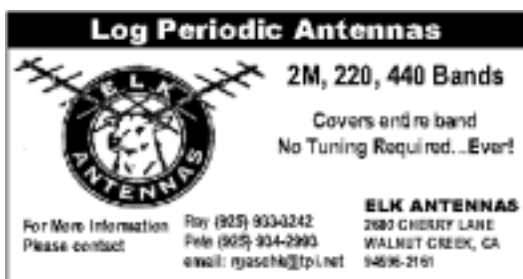
RACES Nets Every Thursday at 19:00 hours

Central County Jim Brunk N6BHX 145.680 /s

South County Ed Ritchie K6SFD 146.355 /+
100pl

East County Jim Tittle KC6SOE 146.535 /s

West County Rich Parker KD6JCT 145.110 /-



MORE COSPONSORS SIGN ABOARD CC&R BILL HR 4720 (ARRL Letter)

Additional cosponsors have signed aboard HR 4720, the bill in Congress aimed at providing relief to amateurs faced with private deed covenants, conditions and restrictions—CC&Rs—in erecting antennas. The list of 18 members of Congress who have agreed to cosponsor the measure includes two amateurs. They are Oregon Republican Greg Walden, WB7OCE—one of the two original cosponsors of HR 4720 with Texas Republican Pete Sessions—and Arkansas Democrat Mike Ross, WD5DVR.

Walden and Ross are believed to be the only Amateur Radio licensees in the US House of Representatives. The House now is in recess until after Labor Day.

New York Democrat Steve Israel introduced HR 4720—the “Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Consistency Act”—on May 14. The measure would require private land-use regulators—such as homeowners’ associations—to “reasonably accommodate” Amateur Radio communication consistent with the PRB-1 limited federal preemption. PRB-1 now applies only to states and municipalities.

Visit the US House of Representatives Write Your Representative Service Web page <<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>> for information on how to contact your representative. The ARRL requests those writing or e-mailing members of Congress—whether or not they are supporting this legislation—to copy ARRL on their correspondence—via e-mail to ccr-bill@arrl.org or via US Mail to CC&R Bill, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Correspondents should include the bill number, HR 4720, as well as their name and address on all correspondence.

Hams Receive Commendation from San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

In March, with the help of several MDARC members, the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District located a faulty radio transmitter that had been randomly jamming their emergency dispatch channel since December.

In recognition of those efforts, on July 24, 2002 the District awarded the following Commendation to Ed Ritchie, Tom Seabury, and John Stuart:

WHEREAS, the District was experiencing an intermittent radio interference over a period of five months and at unusual hours of the day and night, including weekends; and

WHEREAS, the District was unable to determine the source of interference; and

WHEREAS, the FCC was unable to assist the District outside of the normal work week; and

WHEREAS, the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District's primary radio system was non-functional while the interference was present; and

WHEREAS, you researched the types of tools and proper methods of locating the source of interference; and

WHEREAS, your actions and unlimited availability assisted in determining the source of interference; and

WHEREAS, your actions assisted the District in resolving the matter and ensuring public safety,

I, BOARD PRESIDENT BONGI, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, do hereby recognize and commend you on your extraordinary efforts to assist the District.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 24th day of July 2002.

— Signed by —

THOMAS M. BONGI, BOARD PRESIDENT
SAN RAMON VALLEY FIRE PROTECTION
DISTRICT



Review under way of unlicensed 2.4 GHz systems (ARRL Letter)

The AMSAT-NA Board of Directors is reviewing the large number of unlicensed systems active in the 2.4-GHz band. These systems are being used for high-speed digital communications. Although these systems are not licensed, they are permitted to operate under FCC Part 15 rules with low power (100 mW or 1 W spread spectrum). AMSAT-NA and ARRL plan to develop a joint strategy regarding S band, as both organizations anticipate that interference may become a problem area as similar Part 15 unlicensed equipment proliferates.

Two amateur satellites, UO-11 and AO-40, now operate transmitters in the 2.4-GHz band, and both OSCAR-Echo and OSCAR-Eagle—two AMSAT-NA satellite projects now under development—will have S-band transmitters. In addition, various ATV systems and other amateur communication systems operate in the vicinity of 2.4 GHz. The FCC has proposed making amateurs primary at 2400 to 2402 MHz.

AMSAT-NA seeks reports from amateurs who have experienced interference with 2.4-GHz reception of AO-40 from a Part 15 device. Send details to ve3frh@amsat.org.—AMSAT News Service.

ARES TEAMS ON ALERT AS WEST COAST WILDFIRES THREATEN **(from The ARRL Letter)**

West Coast Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams were on alert at week's end to provide emergency communication as the Florence and Sour Biscuit wildfires in southwestern Oregon threatened to merge, creating a "mega fire." ARRL Oregon Section Manager Marshall Johnson, KK7CW, said local hams were helping to curb rumors regarding evacuations and supporting local public service agencies.

"ARES and served agencies are still assessing the resources necessary to keep homes from being destroyed and residents as safe as possible," he told ARRL. "Pray for us."

Johnson says resources in Oregon to fight more than a dozen fires are being stretched to the limit. "Municipal and Regional fire departments are sending mutual aid personnel to help fight the blazes," he said. According to Johnson, nearly one-half million acres have burned so far this summer, although August 1 was the first official day of fire season in Oregon.

Meanwhile, ARRL San Francisco Section Manager Len Gwinn, WA6KLK, said ARES teams from Crescent City and Humboldt, Mendocino and Sonoma counties in California were standing by to assist. Gwinn also was in contact with Sacramento Valley Section Emergency Coordinator Dave Thorne, K6SOJ, to arrange ARES mutual aid between the two ARRL sections.

"Everyone is still on standby to evacuate," Gwinn said August 1, adding that shelters in Crescent City, California, and Grants Pass, Oregon, were quiet for the moment. Residents in the Illinois Valley in Oregon's Josephine County have been warned to be ready to voluntarily evacuate on 30 minutes notice. Officials also have been encouraging voluntary relocations of the elderly, families with children and of those having medical conditions or needing special assistance.

At risk are the communities of Selma and Cave Junction and the surrounding areas. The Florence Fire has covered more than 145,000 acres, while the Sour Biscuit fire has claimed more than 35,000 acres. The two fires were within a couple of miles of each other on July 31 and only about 5 percent contained. Firefighters have been attempting to bulldoze a firebreak.

While ARES operation typically has been on VHF, Gwinn said the Crescent City and Grants Pass centers planned to test 40 and 80-meter midday conditions. "This is because if the linked repeaters between the cities go down for any reason, they will have to resort to HF to get over the hill between the cities," Gwinn explained. He said Family Radio Service (FRS) radios also were being used in areas near the centers also.

"These are major fires, and there is at least two and a half months of fire season remaining," outgoing ARRL Sacramento Valley SM Jerry Boyd, K6BZ, said in a message this week to members in his section. "Let's keep our preparedness high."

SATERN volunteer honored for WTC, Flight 587 Assistance (ARRL Letter)

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) volunteer Jeff Schneller, N2HPO, was among the 17 recipients of the Mayor's Volunteer Service Award, presented June 26 by the office of New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in recognition of Schneller's outstanding volunteer service to the City. Schneller was honored for his efforts as part of SATERN following the World Trade Center attack in New York City and during the rescue and recovery operation two months later that followed the crash of Flight 587 in Belle Harbor, New York.

The SATERN liaison for the Greater New York City area, Schneller coordinates, supervises, schedules and trains individual Amateur Radio operators for SATERN membership. Schneller was cited for his outstanding leadership skills, excellent judgment and expertise in emergency communications.

NEW AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNAS TO BE INSTALLED ON ISS (ARRL Letter)

The last two Amateur Radio antennas are scheduled to be installed this month on the International Space Station's Zvezda Service Module—the crew's living quarters. The specially designed flexible-tape antennas will support Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) VHF and UHF operation and are similar to an antenna installed last January 14 by the Expedition 4 crew.

ARISS International Group Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says current plans call for Expedition 5 crew members to carry out space walks (called extra-vehicular activities or EVAs) August 16 and August 22. The two ARISS antennas could be installed during one or both of those EVAs. The all-ham Expedition 5 crew members are commander Valery Korzun, RZ3FK, cosmonaut Sergei Treschev, RZ3FU, and US astronaut Peggy Whitson, KC5ZTD.

Bauer said ARISS was working with its Russian partners on EVA procedures. "Once these antennas are installed and some tests planned for September are completed in Russia, additional ISS ham radio equipment will be installed in the Service Module," he said.

ARISS initial ham station gear—a single-band Ericsson 5-W hand-held transceiver for 2 meters—is installed in the Zarya Functional Cargo Block (FGB) using an antenna initially installed to aid docking operations and EVAs. The new VHF-UHF antennas and a flexible-tape HF antenna also installed January 25 are designed for and dedicated to ARISS operations. There is no HF gear aboard the ISS at this point.

Installation of the new antenna on Zvezda makes possible two separate ham stations aboard Space Station Alpha. Bauer said the additional gear due to be installed in the Service Module is one of the 5-W 70-cm transceivers already aboard the ISS. The ARISS 2-meter transceiver now in use from the

FGB will remain operational. "This will provide multiband operation," he said. Plans down the road call for installing HF gear at the ARISS station as well as higher power VHF and UHF equipment.

While the ARISS schedule of school contacts has been at a lull during the summer, Korzun has taken time to make some casual contacts. In addition, Bauer reported, Korzun logged nearly 140 ARRL Field Day contacts in June. He also connected a computer to the ARISS packet module and got the system running again after it was down for several weeks.

Bauer advised packet operators to stick with UNPROTO operations whenever possible and to use the Packet Mailbox System (PMS) only sparingly, if at all, for brief messages.

ARISS is an international project sponsored jointly by ARRL, NASA and AMSAT. A paper entitled "2001: an Amateur Radio Space Odyssey on the International Space Station," which details the development of ARISS and discusses the four new ARISS antennas, is available via the ARISS Web site <<http://ariss.gsfc.nasa.gov/EVAs/amsat01.pdf>>.

Data Posted from the **MDARC** Website:

Needed: Someone who can reprogram a Motorola HT750 4channel, 70cm handie talkie, I would like to use it to talk to the 440 repeater and get some simplex freqs programmed. Please contact crom@itslinux.org if you can help with this.

MDARC members: Do you have a web site? We'll list its URL on the Memberpages web page on the **MDARC** web site.



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

08/05/2002	7:30 PM	MDARC Board Meeting	Baker's Square, Willow Pass Road, Concord (Across from ex-Evil Milla's)
08/16/2002	7:30 PM	MDARC General Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
08/17/2002	8:00 AM	PACIFICON General Meeting	Location To Be Announced
08/31/2002		Carrier Deadline	
09/02/2002	7:30 PM	MDARC Board Meeting	Baker's Square, Willow Pass Road, Concord
09/20/2002	7:30 PM	MDARC General Meeting	Our Savior's Lutheran Church
09/21/2002	8:00 AM	PACIFICON General Meeting	Location To Be Announced
09/30/2002		Carrier Deadline	

Carrier articles should be sent to Bob Beard <mailto:rbeard@speakeasy.net>

MDARC Repeaters

147.060 MHz + / PL 100 Hz ATV: Input 1289.25 Mhz
224.780 MHz - / PL 77 Hz ATV: Output 427.250 MHz Cable Channel 58
441.325 MHz + / PL 100 Hz ATV: Output 1241.25 Mhz
APRS: 144.39 MHz
TCP/IP: 145.71 MHz

The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
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